

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 02154 021927Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 /087 W
-----055611 030336Z /15

R 021659Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8504
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 2154

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM OAS HA
SUBJ: VIII OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY: "SPECIAL INVITEE" STATUS FOR
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

REF: STATE 138217

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES FORMAL APPROACH TO GOH ON BEHALF OF
"SPECIAL INVITEE" STATUS FOR AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
AT OASGA WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

2. AS WE HAVE REPORTED SEVERAL TIMES AMNESTY INTRNATIONAL'S
PRESTIGE AND INTEGRITY ARE DISPUTED BY THE GOH. THE VERY
MENTION OF ITS NAME IS A "RED FLAG" TO BOTH FOREIGN MINISTER
AND INTERIOR MINISTER. IN VIEW OF GOH, AMNESTY'S 1975-76
REPORT ON HAITI WAS GROSSLY DISTORTED--INCLUDING OUTDATED
ALLEGATIONS REGARDING PRISON CONDITIONS AND TAKING NO
ACCOUNT WHATSOEVER OF HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS MADE BY GOH.
AMNESTY'S 1977 REPORT WAS MUCH LESS STRIDENT AND DID
ACKNOWLEDGE GOVERNMENT'S PRISONER RELEASES. BUT AMNESTY
STILL HAS NOT SHED ITS IMAGE, AS PERCEIVED BY GOH, OF A
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LEFT-WING ORGANIZATION ADVOCATING SPECIAL FAVORS FOR
"COMMUNISTS" AND "TERRORISTS."

3. ANY DIRECT APPROACH IN PORT AU PRINCE ASKING GOH TO
INSTRUCT ITS OAS REPRESENTATIVE TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REQUEST WOULD POLARIZE OPINIONS AND
PROBABLY RESULT IN NEGATIVE RESPONSE, NOTWITHSTANDING THE

GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL DESIRE TO BE PROGRESSIVE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
AT THE OAS (PORT AU PRINCE 2060). AMBASSADOR DID, HOWEVER,
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CURRENT VISIT TO PORT AU PRINCE BY
HAITIAN UN PERMREP SERGE CHARLES TO RAISE MATTER INFORMALLY.
CHARLES CONFIRMED GOH ANTAGONISM TO AI, BUT PREDICTED
GOH WOULD ABSTAIN IF MATTER COMES TO A VOTE. SINCE
AMBASSADOR SALOMON HAS ALREADY OFFERED TO MEDIATE AN AI
REQUEST TO SEND AN INVESTIGATIVE TEAM TO HAITI (USUN 143),
UNDERSTANDS ISSUES INVOLVED BETTER THAN MOST OFFICIALS HERE,
AND CAN QUIETLY DETERMINE GOH ATTITUDE ON AI REQUEST AT OAS,
WE FEEL ANY FURTHER LOBBYING OF THE HAITIANS ON THIS
ISSUE SHOULD BE DONE IN WASHINGTON.

4. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS CITED REFTTEL DO NOT POSE PROBLEMS FOR
GOH OR AROUSE SAME EMOTIONS AS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL.
JONES

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Message Attributes

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